A LETTER TO A MEMBER OF THE IRISH PARLIAMENT

Relative to the

PRESENT STATE of IRELAND.

WHEREIN

Many Advantages are laid down, which would arise to the Province of MUNSTER in particular, and to the Kingdom in general, from improving and farther extending the Navigation of the BLACKWATER River thro' the Counties of WATERFORD and CORK.

Hic Manus ob Patriam pugnando Vulnera passi,
Inventas aut qui vitam excoluere per artes,
Quique sui memores alios fecere merendo.

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A

LETTER, &c.

DEAR SIR,

WITH ſincere pleaſure I beg leave to congratulate with you, and every other well-wiſher to Ireland, upon the proſpect of tranquillity and peace, which your friends on this ſide the water flatter themſelves is once more approaching your country, under the wiſe, mild, and gracious adminiſtration of a Nobleman, whoſe ſhining virtues only, without the uſual arts of court intrigues or miniſterial perſuaſions, have procured his Royal Maſter's higheſt confidence; and general approbation of his character, and eſteem for his ſuperior merit, from every good man in Britain.

WE may by his means confidently hope, that your late diſcords ſhall be compoſed, and that every offended, ſore place, which was but filmed and ſkinned over,

whilſt it feſtered and rankled underneath, will be healed from the bottom, and that your political conſtitution will hereafter recover its priſtine vigour, and advance towards maturity, till it is fully eſtabliſhed in the meridian of ſtrength, and perfection, by the wiſdom and friendly care of your preſent Viceroy; whoſe private intereſt, in this matter, is ſo much the ſame with yours, that he beyond all manner of doubt cannot be ſuppoſed to want inclination to co-operate on every plan or inſtitution to promote the good of your country.

In the firſt place then you may well expect to have all uſeful laws, and advantageous propoſals brought in by the Houſe of Commons in Ireland candidly ſent over, and duly perfected on the part of the Crown; and that every thing directly tending to the national advantage will meet with a proper encouragement, for the ſake of the whole, without favour to any ſide or party, from whom its firſt motions may happen in their infancy to proceed; and on the other hand, without partiality to a few, who, for private reaſons and intereſted views, may and will be, in all countries and at all times, diſpoſed to prefer themſelves to the publick.

For

For above all other advantages which a nation can derive from its Governors, to make and to enforce the execution of good laws is by far the greateſt; and our excellent Sir Walter Raleigh adds this reaſon, that " no nation can want people, that has " good laws;" and where people abound, their mutual wants and dependencies on each other muſt quickly excite induſtry and arts, which alone are the true durable riches of any country, and not merely a great number of gold and ſilver counters, which all nations have unanimouſly agreed upon as inſtruments, ſtamped to facilitate the general exchange of one commodity for another.

However ſtrange it may ſeem in the hiſtory of Ireland, that theſe parts, which from earlieſt time had united themſelves in ſtrict confederacy, and friendſhip with the firſt Engliſh adventurers in that country, ſhould from ſome fatality common to friendſhips, as well of ſome private men as of States, be overlooked and paſſed over, to make way for remote ſtrangers; yet ſo it is, that the face of the inland parts in the counties of Cork, Waterford, and Kerry, where the ſubjects of Henry II. firſt gained admittance,

tance, and whoſe deſcendants, (with ſome very few exceptions,) in all the commotions of civil wars have remained inviolably attached to the Engliſh Intereſt ever ſince; yet, I ſay, many of theſe places have been ſo little beholden to arts and improvements, ſpread by them every where elſe over the kingdom, that even to this day, theſe countries are in many places ſo rude and wild, that they are not one degree removed from that ſtate in which they were originally formed by nature. And that theſe parts of Ireland partake but very little of the refinement and culture of the Engliſh ſettled there, is manifeſt from the productions and exports, compared with the imports of the many neceſſaries and ſeveral luxuries in which the Gentry of all places indulge.

And the want of trade and induſtry cauſes ſuch inequality in the diſtribution of their property, that while a few of the richer ſort can wantonly pamper appetites of every kind, and indulge with the affluence of ſo many monarchs; the poor, alas! who make at leaſt ninety-nine of a hundred amongſt them, are under the neceſſity of going clad after the faſhion of the old Iriſh, whoſe manners and cuſtoms they retain to this day;

day; and of feeding on potatoes, the moſt generally embraced advantage to the inhabitants, which the great Sir Walter Raleigh left behind him.

The commodities which this part of the country produces for foreign conſumption, are chiefly beef, tallow, raw hides, pork, butter, worſted, and potatoes; all which, how conſiderable ſoever their annually exported quantities may at firſt ſight appear, are ſo little improved from the ſtate in which nature has afforded them, that very few hands of a populous nation can have been imployed in preparing them for market.

As the feeding of cattle on large dairies of ſeveral hundred acres together, may be managed by the inhabitants of one or two cabbins, whoſe wretched ſubſiſtence for the moſt part, depends upon an acre or two of potatoes, and a little ſkimmed milk; hence it is no wonder, if artiſts and manufacturers of every kind deſert this rude ſoil, for a ſettlement in more cultivated places, where a probability of comfortable ſupport appears from their honeſt induſtry and pains. So that by this unhappy police ſeveral villages have been deſerted at different

times

times by the inhabitants, and numbers of them ſet a begging; whilſt the more reſolute few boldly meet the perils of the ocean, and every year launch forth in queſt of new ſettlements, which they raſhly hope to find more propitious and hoſpitable, than their native country (neglected as it is) has proved to them.

On the other hand let us now take a ſhort view of the Northern counties, and to what a noble pitch the linen manufacture has been advanced there by the publick encouragement and countenance of the Great, who, convinced of the importance thereof, long ago preſented Mr. *Cromlin*, a foreigner, with a donation of 10,000*l.* as an acknowledgment of the great ſervice he had done that part of the country, by eſtabliſhing theſe manufactures amongſt them, and alſo obtained an order of thanks of the Houſe of Commons to be given him for his ſervices in this undertaking.

A noble ſpirit this indeed! and 'tis only to be regretted, that it were not yet more general and extended; but beſides this, what immenſe ſums have at different times

been

been allowed for making rivers navigable and convenient for water-carriage of coals, and all other neceſſaries in theſe northern parts, by which means trade flouriſhes univerſally, and a yeomanry of ſome property is growing into exiſtence, which will be of this, as it is of the neighbour iſland Britain, the ſureſt natural ſupport, and ſtrongeſt bulwark of its liberty.

HAVING thus briefly ſhewn the difference between the North and the province of Munſter, it may now be expected that ſome remedy ſhould be propoſed againſt this diſadvantage, whereby an equally good police might be eſtabliſhed in both places; but this I profeſs a taſk too arduous for any private man, eſpecially as it is unlucky for this part of the kingdom, that the property in this province is ſo unequally divided, and of ſome ſo vaſt and extended, that it were vain to expect the great poſſeſſors ſhould continually reſide in places, thus remote from the ſun-ſhine of the court, diſtant both from their pleaſures and advancements in honours, to which all men naturally aſpire. Hence it is that many noble families, with 8 or 10,000*l.* *per ann.* in theſe parts, will not, nor can be

ever expected, to ſubmit to a reſidence on their eſtates in the counties of Limerick, Cork, or Kerry, but attach themſelves to the centre of buſineſs, where they are entitled by their merit, rank, and fortunes, to ſuperintend the firſt moving ſprings, which influence the whole machine of government.

But though that province, for the aforementioned and other reaſons, is thus rendered deſtitute of the moſt powerful friends to its refinement; one thing yet remains, which is their duty to endeavour, and is in their power eaſily to accompliſh, *viz.* bleſt as they are with ſuperior capacity, and ample poſſeſſions, which give them great power, they ſhould endeavour to influence by reaſon, and prevail on their friends in both houſes of Parliament, to encourage by ſuitable rewards, the propagation of every uſeful diſcovery and publick emolument; and as I have ſlightly mentioned before the utility of making rivers navigable in the North of Ireland, I ſhall confine myſelf in the ſequel, chiefly to ſhew what national benefit would accrue, from the Parliament of Ireland's granting 30,000*l.* or if neceſſary, a further ſum, to

make

make one particular river, the Black-Water, navigable, which is of infinitely more importance than any of the reſt.

And that this would be no very difficult matter to accompliſh, we may collect from the following account of this river, which is (according to the ingenious Mr. Smith, in his *natural and civil hiſtory of Waterford*) the " Avenmore of ancient writers, " and takes its riſe in the mountains of " Sleeve-Lougher, and runs about forty " miles an eaſt courſe before it enters the " county (Waterford), making but a ſmall " allowance for its turnings, and holds " the ſame courſe about eight or nine " miles farther, till it changes to the " ſouth at Cappoquin, in the county of " Waterford, from whence it runs almoſt " due ſouth for above ten miles into the " ocean ; ſo that its whole length may be " juſtly reckoned about ſixty miles, but " if all its windings were taken in, much " more; and falls not much ſhort of the " Severn in England, if the difference be- " tween ours and Engliſh miles be allowed " for. During its courſe through the " county of Cork it receives ſeveral ſmaller " rivers, the Allow, the Awbeg, and in

" the county of Waterford the river " Bride empties itſelf into it. Boats and " veſſels of conſiderable burthen may ſail " up to Cappoquin from the harbour of " Youghall, and may there load and dis- " charge. Other flat boats may run up " much higher, beyond the bounds of " the county of Waterford. Its depth is " variable in many places. At the bridge " of Cappoquin it is about twelve feet at " low water mark."

Lord Orrery, in his letters lately publiſhed, ſays, " it was in his time navigable " up to Mallow (forty miles from its " mouth) which it is not at preſent for " boats of any tolerable burthen." Now the recovery or improvement of its navigation to that place, and ten or twelve miles farther, would compleat this noble work *.

The chief advantage of rendering rivers navigable is, for the more eaſy tranſportation

* That this river is rapid, and its bed ſtony and rugged muſt be owned; but the conſequent difficulty to render it navigable is eaſily obviated, only by making a few additional locks in its courſe, which will facilitate the carriage, by increaſing the velocity of the waters in the moſt convenient direction.

tation of commodities of every kind; thus a chaldron of ſea-coal for example (as is ſhewn in the Philoſophical Tranſactions of the Royal Society of London, for the year 1675) may be brought 300 miles for 4*s.* which is in weight 3300 *lb.* but the land-carriage of this ſo far, by waggon, would amount to 15 *l. ſterl. viz.* 75 times as much, and on horſeback about 100 times as much.

AGAIN, the author of this letter aſſures the reader, that during his ſtay in a certain town of Holland, more than ten miles diſtant from the ſea coaſt, he has obſerved ſea water brought there by boat, and boiled in ſalt pans with Newcaſtle coal; by which means this induſtrious people can make ſalt, under ſuch diſadvantages, cheaper than they can import it either from the French, Portugueſe, or Spaniards, for whom the ſun produces it almoſt ſpontaneouſly; and with their own ſalt, the Dutch annually cure vaſt quantities of fiſh, caught on our coaſt, for home conſumption.

BY the foregoing narrative one may conjecture, how very beneficial it would be to the trading cities of Waterford, Cork, and to all the Weſtern coaſts, and inland

parts

parts of Ireland, if the Blackwater river were navigable, though but for fifty miles from the ſea. It would in the firſt place make happy vaſt numbers of the moſt miſerable of all his Majeſty's ſubjects, during the inclement winter ſeaſon, by an abundant ſupply of the moſt excellent firing, on the cheapeſt terms; inexhauſtible veins of durable coals, exceeding in goodneſs what are hitherto uſed at Cork, having been lately diſcovered ten or twelve miles above Mallow, near the banks of this river; an invaluable treaſure to this country, if proper attention and care is uſed to bring them into general uſe.

In this article only I am informed there would be a ſaving to the city of Cork of near 20,000*l. per ann.* beſides the additional quantity of happineſs communicated to many ſuch, who with the preſent prices of Engliſh coals, have no ſecurity againſt the winter ſeaſon, for want of wherewithall to purchaſe fuel*.

* Anno 1741, 9018 tons of Engliſh coals, upon the Cuſtom-houſe books, were imported into Cork harbour, *vid. Smith's hiſtory*; and if allowance is made for the quantities imported, and not duly entered, and alſo for the vaſt increaſe of that city ſince the laſt French war, the above account will not appear exaggerated.

But

But beſide the benefit thereby ariſing to every mechanick at preſent in that country, many new trades would ſoon be ſet on foot and carried on there, that were never once heard of before. For it appears, that at preſent the carriage of goods by land from Mallow to Cork, is higher than that of wheat and other neceſſaries of life, from the Briſtol channel.

The Merchant therefore finds account to employ ſhips in that trade, rather than permit equally good corn to be brought on horſeback from the neighbouring town; hence the true and the capital ſource of the great evil under which Ireland groans, the diſcouragement of tillage and agriculture in that part of the kindom, where for want of this navigation, above two millions of acres, at the leaſt, are rendered uncapable of being turned to tillage for exportation.

The wiſeſt nations, from ancient Egypt to the preſent Engliſh, have made agriculture an object of government's attention, and their refined policy; and here, by the

by,

by, it ought to be conſidered, not the leaſt mark of the immenſe riches of the Engliſh nation, that they have granted a bounty, not far ſhort of 400,000*l.* *per ann.* for ſome years paſt, upon corn exported to other countries; but even this bounty could not have its effect in England, unleſs from the concomitant advantage of inland water-carriage, through 150 miles ſpace on ſome rivers.

Now the kingdom of Ireland for want of agriculture cannot maintain, even with its preſent annual ſupplies from England, above one eighth part of the inhabitants it might do, were the natural fertility of its fine ſoil augmented by the like care and induſtry, which the farmers of Hertfordſhire, and other parts of England imploy; as nothing promotes trade like cheapneſs of conveyance, it is plain to demonſtration, that by making the Blackwater navigable, the lands for many miles on all ſides through which it paſſes, would immediately feel the good effects of it, and would be exceedingly increaſed in value, as experience has taught in Ulſter under a climate far inferior, and in general,

a much more unfruitful ſoil, where great quantities of corn are annually grown.

And as the people of Ireland are but too much unacquainted with the various kinds of manures, uſed to great advantage all over England, it may not be amiſs to recommend to their future trials, other materials than ſea-ſand and lime, to mix with the ſmall quantities of dung they have to uſe; amongſt which, marle, found in great abundance at New Affane, Liſmore, and elſewhere on the banks of this river, deſerves the attention of every farmer, who may, when that is made navigable, obtain marle on as eaſy terms as ſea-ſand or lime; but it were to be wiſhed that Swift's remark in his time, did not hold too true at preſent, in thoſe parts, as to the improvement of land, "theſe few who attempt "that (ſays he) or planting, through covet-"ouſneſs or want of ſkill, generally leave "things worſe than they were, and by "running into the fancy of grazing, after "the manner of the Scythians, are every "day depopulating the country."

One other great advantage by this propoſal taking place, would be an eaſy con-

veyance of lime and lime-ſtone all over the country; for at preſent the miſerable peaſants in theſe parts of Ireland are forced to carry all the lime-ſtone they employ on horſeback, i. e. at a hundred times the expence of water-carriage, and the diſtance from quarries is not in ſome places far ſhort of twenty miles; which circumſtance alone would retard an Engliſh farmer in great attempts to manure that way, and ſo much more the farmers in Ireland, devoid of property as well as of ſpirit and underſtanding, who are, by having hard leaſes, and a tenancy almoſt at will, reduced to a ſtate of vaſſalage under their landlords, as abject as the moſt coercive feudal laws could enforce.

THIS pernicious practice is indeed confined chiefly to thoſe parts of the country, of which I am now writing; for in the North, where trade has juſt begun to hold up its head, the face of nature is much altered, by the improvement of land, the thriving plantations of copſes and woods, the frequent vicinity of gentlemens ſeats, interſperſed every where with ſubſtantial farmers houſes, whoſe induſtry procures

for

for them a comfortable livelihood, and clean home-ſpun garb and attire.

THE planting and preſerving of woods would be another conſequence, from this plenty of cheap fuel, when their product could be carried eaſily to markets, either foreign or domeſtic.

WHAT praiſes then would he deſerve, who could rouſe the ſame ſpirit in this province as produced the foregoing improvements of the North; this atchievement would indeed be more truly glorious than the ill founded vanity of conquerors and heroes.

BUT as reformation in a ſtate can never proceed from the moſt refined precepts of inactive philoſophy, or the moſt rigorous injunctions of religion, but muſt be the immediate offspring of wiſe laws and inſtitutions; that patriot who could digeſt a ſcheme of reformation, ſufficient for the foregoing purpoſes, would perform a more meritorious and laudable action, than the moſt celebrated of Cromwell, Turenne, or any other inhuman votariſt of ambition;

and one word farther, in honour of the uſeful inventions in the arts of life, which is, that they ſpread wider their beneficial influence, than the effect of the wiſeſt laws, which are by their own nature limited to time and place.

And it ought to be obſerved, that the fund applicable by Parliament for making rivers navigable, is by far too inſufficient to anſwer this great intention, which likewiſe ought to admit of no delay, from the immediate advantage to be derived from the coals and corn which could, by this means, eaſily be brought into every remote part of the country.

Besides, it ought to be a ſeparate and diſtinct undertaking, becauſe great encouragements might be expected from the gentry of the province of Munſter, to a work in which they are ſo nearly concerned, which could not be hoped for otherwiſe, and becauſe the board of navigation have already determined to apply the future produce of that fund, to the making the Liffey and the Shannon navigable, which will be likely to ſwallow

up

up the whole of that for many years to come.

And here under favor of the *Commiſſioners of the Inland Navigation Act*, be it remembred, that the juſt mentioned rivers, if made navigable, could not from their ſituation afford, ſo extenſive benefit to the kingdom in general, as our river Blackwater, in the ſame circumſtances might do; for the courſe of the Liffy is ſhort, and the Shannon diſcharges itſelf into the great Weſtern Ocean at a port which never was conſidered in a favorable light for foreign trade. Whereas Youghall is ſituated ſo near the opulent and trading cities of Cork, Waterford, and Dublin, that coals and all commodities, brought down the Blackwater, when made navigable, could be much eaſier conveyed to thoſe markets, than from Limeric round a great part of the coaſt of Ireland, not to inſiſt farther on the greater riſque, from variety of winds, which are neceſſary to ſail in a circular direction upon a dangerous coaſt.

But to return to ſome other benefits, from the navigation upon this river: coals could

could be brought down to the ſea coaſt ſo cheap, that very good ſalt might be made here; and great national riches and profit would ariſe from curing all ſorts of fiſh caught on the Nymph Bank, a few leagues off this coaſt, from which our enemies the French, and our neighbours of Holland, every year carry all ſorts to their reſpective homes, under the diſadvantage of great diſtance, and unfavourable winds.

I have been lately aſſured, upon exceeding good authority, that the fiſhery of the French upon this bank is augmented, within theſe three or four years, to an alarming, and almoſt incredible degree; and that they employ annually between two and three hundred veſſels, which carry each between twenty-five and thirty hands (men and boys) in this fiſhery, an object much worthy the attention of Government to enquire after.

WHEREAS the natives, remarkable for their expertneſs in fiſhing, would quickly avail themſelves of a ſecure retreat from ſtorms and foul weather; and having ſalt made cheap at home (as it would be in

that caſe ſoon all over the country) they might cure, and barrel up all their fiſh in time, and return immediately to buſineſs, before their rivals could reach their own harbours.

SPANISH ſalt is allowed to be the beſt of all others for curing fiſh, and next to it is that kind made at Liverpool: now whoever conſiders the natural hiſtory of degrees of ſaltneſs in the ſea, will conclude the water of this coaſt muſt needs be leſs adulterated with land freſhes, than it is ſo high up between lands as Liverpool; it is therefore moſt likely that ſea ſalt prepared in theſe parts would anſwer full as well, as the Spaniſh ſalt which coſts ſo high a price.

MANY other arts and trades might be ſet up here with great private, as well as national advantage, if the coals which have been diſcovered (as before mentioned) in vaſt quantities, in the mountains of the county of Cork, could be brought down the Blackwater river. The ſea coaſt abounds ſo much with all materials for making kelp (the alkaline fixt ſalt of ſea-weeds) that by means of this colliery, brought

brought into repute, by an eaſy tranſportation, all ſorts of glaſs work might be carried on in that place, as well as in other towns of Ireland, where there is not any made at preſent.

And beſides, the vales through which this river runs are extreamly rich and fertile, and with proper management might produce madder, hemp, and liquorice, as good as any in the world, on the low marſhy grounds called Inches, which jutt out in ſeveral places according to the courſe of the river; which lands would be capable of being much improved, when ſecured from the violence and devaſtation of floods, the bad effects of which would be in a great degree prevented, by the locks and other proviſions neceſſary in the accompliſhing ſuch a work.

Minerals, and fine marble of various kinds are found here, and potters clay, pipe clay, ochres, boles, and marles. If coals then could readily be procured on the ſpot, where theſe earths are found, all kind of earthen wares might be made upon the borders of this river, as well as in

any

any part of Staffordſhire or Wales, and great ſums would be kept annually at home, to the great ſaving of the nation. But to avoid being tedious I ſhall refer the reader, to a liſt of commodities yearly imported into Ireland, all ſuch as may be raiſed and manufactured there, if this Blackwater were made navigable, which liſt has been often publiſhed by thoſe moſt excellent patriots of the Dublin ſociety, whoſe labours and endeavours have tended as much to the civilizing and reformation of Ireland, as thoſe of private men can do. But the value of ſuch commodities, taken from an account publiſhed often, at a medium for three years, amounts in the whole to 507,270*l.* ſee *Natural and civil hiſtory of Waterford.*

And what immenſe riches muſt be accumulated on this country by ſuch an acceſſion of merchandizes, artificers, and traders of every kind, if this ſcheme ſhould take place at preſent. I ſhall expect to ſee in ſeven years time, the inland mountains, which now yield not to the landlord at the rate of ſixpence per acre, for want of tillage, increaſed in value to two

ſhillings or upwards. When this comes to be the caſe, what princely revenues will the Raleigh eſtate, with many others there, produce in a few years ?

But the publick good and happineſs of the whole, is the chief object which the writer of theſe pages has in view. For he knows not the face of any of the honourable poſſeſſors, except of one; and is far from expecting ſuch curioſity to be raiſed from the peruſal of this letter, that any one of them ſhould think it worth while to ſeek after his acquaintance.

But from the exact accounts of the phyſico-hiſtorical ſociety publiſhed with great accuracy by Mr. Smith both of Cork and Waterford, it is manifeſt, that theſe parts abound with rich copper, lead, and iron ores, coals, marble quarries, and other valuable minerals ſo near to the Blackwater, that the legiſlature is publickly called upon in the moſt ſenſible and urgent manner, to take under their immediate conſideration at the next enſuing ſeſſions of parliament, how this deſireable and highly advantageous national propoſal, may moſt ſpeedily be brought into execution.

I WILL not preſume to point out any part of the ſurplus money in the treaſury, as the fitteſt for that purpoſe; but ſure I am, every well wiſher to Ireland, ſhould be deſirous the whole ſum might be laid out amongſt themſelves, rather than that any part of it ſhould go out of this impoveriſhed country, which drained farther of ſuch a ſum, in the preſent ſcarcity of current ſpecie, would have very fatal effects, both upon trade and publick credit in Ireland, and not a little injure the merchants in England, who are now making great fortunes by the Iriſh trade.

BUT as I have learned ſince my writing the foregoing, ſome particulars, of which I was formerly ignorant, about the abundance of iron mines in theſe parts, I am led again to enforce by perſuaſion, the utility of navigation upon this river Blackwater, where numberleſs ſmall rivers at the diſtance of every five or ſix miles fall in; which upon a navigable river afford the beſt opportunity in the world, to erect hardware works of every kind on them near the main river, and it was only in

the year 1742-3, I think, that any one blade-mill for grinding ſcythes, ſhears, &c. was begun to be erected all over Ireland, and even that by a publick encouragement of the Dublin Society given one Mr. Whitton of Carlow. Whereas, adds Mr. Smith "in "many Shires in England they are ſitu- "ated plentifully on every mill-ſtream. "For theſe kind of manufactures we ſend "abroad ſome thouſands of pounds yearly; "this money might be kept at home, by "ſetting up ſuch works amongſt ourſelves, "and we might in time come to export "theſe things to foreign markets, as cheap "as our neighbours." So far from our author.

Now I profeſs it would to me ſeem politick, for the Government to encourage ſome ſuch undertakings in theſe parts, rather than too near the North, where a great diverſity of projects may poſſibly divert them from the purſuit of the linen manufacture.

Thus it is evident, that the navigation of this river would be upon the whole of ſuch vaſt importance, that its immediate execu-

tion

tion ought not any longer to be delayed; for it ſhould be well remembred, that the Parliament of Ireland ſits for buſineſs only once every two years, and at preſent the redundant publick money, exceeds the probable ſavings in the ſubſequent receſſes of Parliament, by a larger ſum, than will ever be hoarded there again; and if ſo glorious an opportunity ſhould at this time be paſſed over unheeded, future ages may have cauſe to load with obloquy, and unceaſing ſtrains of implacable reſentment, the names of theſe very men, who, by duly exerting true zeal and activity upon this occaſion, have it in their power to ſecure for themſelves the moſt deſirable of all praiſes, by doing ſo great and public ſervice to their country at preſent, and by tranſmitting the means of happineſs to diſtant poſterity.

And in the execution of this, as of every other publick undertaking, private property will no doubt ſuffer ſome injuries, ſmall indeed with regard to the whole, yet too heavy for individuals, of themſelves, unaided by the publick, to ſupport; it ſhould be therefore primarily reſolved, that all loſſes

and

and damages ſuffered by the poſſeſſors of wiers and other privileges on the river, thereby injured, ſhould be compenſated with an equivalent provided by legiſlature on their behalf; and thus the preſent poſſeſſors would actually become gainers by the bargain, and ought, with a view to the increaſing value of lands in the neighbouring parts, to join moſt cordially in promoting this very beneficial propoſal.

Thus have I briefly ſuggeſted ſome of many reaſons for endeavouring to make this river navigable; I have not run into too many refinements, as I hold it good in politicks, as in morals, that neceſſary truths need only to be fairly ſtated to an unprejudiced mind, and with force irreſiſtible they will ſurmount all open oppoſition.

It will anſwer my moſt ardent wiſhes, if this rude eſſay ſhall provoke a better champion to enter the liſts, and promote a cauſe which promiſes happineſs, by arts and ſciences, to generations yet unborn. The incentive of virtuous praiſe is, even in our days, a powerful ſpur to generous minds;

minds; and therefore be it known, that all, ſuch, who promote this neceſſary undertaking to the utmoſt, will be in the eye of reaſon looked upon with eſteem ſuperior to that paid to the moſt powerful demogogues, or popular orators, in both houſes of Parliament, as antient Greece did long ago in her diſtribution of honours, by making Gods of the inventors of wiſe laws and uſeful arts, ſuch as Ceres, who taught them to ſow corn; Bacchus, to plant vines, or the apple; and only dignified Theſeus and Hercules, great warriors and conquerors, with the appellation of demigods and heroes.

I am, dear Sir,

Your's ſincerely,

London, May
20th 1755.

Philo-Ierne.